(f) inviting suggestion from all categories of employees in improving the safety standards;

(g) enhanced security is being provided to convoys/trains carrying ammunition;

(h) restrictions have been imposed on number of vehicles in a convoy; and

(i) Military transport and trains are being used to the maximum extent possible for the movement of ammunition—Civil Hired Transport is being used only when necessary, after thoroughly checking of civilian drivers and cleaners.

Utilisation of National Defence Fund

103. DR. ARUN KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of deposit in the National Defence Fund upto December, 2001 including interest accrued thereupon;

(b) the head-wise amount so far utilized for various purposes and future plans, if any;

(c) whether the remaining amount could be reserved for future utilisation to help families of those defence personnel who sacrificed their lives during earlier wars and extremist attack; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The required information is not available with the Ministry of Defence. The National Defence Fund (NDF) is a non-public fund and is constituted entirely with public contributions and not from any allocation out of the Consolidated Fund of India. The disbursement from the funds are made with the approval of the Executive Committee of the NDF.